

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1058
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 2027

FROM WEISSMAN

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, NI, CS
SUBJECT: NICARAGUA, THE FSLN AND CUBAN PRESENCE

REF: SAN JOSE 1236

1. I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF MY INITIAL CALL ON FORMIN CALDERON MAY 10 TO RE-EMPHASIZE EARLIER CONCERN EXPRESSED OVER POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES WITH NICARAGUA. RECALLING OUR PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS RE THE POSSIBILITY THAT FSLN ACTIVITIES COULD PROVOKE THE CARAZO ADMINISTRATION'S FIRST SERIOUS EXTERNAL PROBLEM, I ASKED HOW HE THOUGHT SOMOZA AND THE GON VIEWED THE CHANGE IN THE GOCR.

2. CALDERON SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THE GON WAS NOT FULLY CONVINCED OF THE ODUBER ADMINISTRATION'S RESOLVE TO DO ALL THAT IT COULD TO LIMIT FSLN ACTIVITIES, BUT WAS MORE TRUSTFUL OF THE CARAZO GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE ACTUAL MTENT WAS A TOUGH ONE FOR THE GOCR SINCE THERE WERE IN EFFECT 5,000 VACANCIES IN THE POLICE FORCES AND AN INEVITABLE PERIOD OF CHANGE AND LIMITED EFFECTIVENESS AHEAD. STRESSING THAT HE AND NEW GOCR
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MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR ECHEVERRIA WERE VERY CLOSE FRIENDS, HE SAID THAT THE GOCR WOULD REMAIN ALERT TO THE NEED TO DO ALL IN ITS POWER TO HEAD OFF POSSIBLE DIFFICULTIES.

3. CALDERON OPINED THAT THE GON COULD BE CONCERNED THAT ARMS FROM CUBA MIGHT BE TRANSITTING COSTA RICA AND SAID

THAT HE IS STILL STUDYING THE WHOLE QUESTION OF CUBAN AND SOVIET PRESENCE. ON THE LATTER COUNTRY, HE ASKED WHETHER I THOUGHT THEIR REPRESENTATION TOO NUMEROUS. I SAID THAT SOVIET EMBASSY PERSONNEL OUTNUMBERED THE U.S. STRENGTH IN EQUIVALENT FUNCTIONS, LARGE AS OUR PRESENCE MIGHT APPEAR. CALDERON RESPONDED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF WHAT THE USG PERSONNEL WERE DOING AND FOUND THEIR FUNCTIONS USEFUL, AND, IN FACT, WOULD BE BEEFING UP GOCR REPRESENTATION IN THE U.S., BOTH EMBASSY AND CONSULAR, TO HELP IMPROVE THE GOCR'S CAPACITY TO WORK WITH THE USG AND US PUBLIC.

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